

Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD

This is a progressive, fatal disease of the central nervous system that attacks cervids (e.g. deer, moose, elk, and caribou). There is currently no treatment.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS*

Similar signs may be observed in other diseases.

*Sometimes no visible signs are shown.

Uncoordinated movements

Excessive thirst

Emaciated

Drooping head



CWD SAMPLING

Ontario tests wild deer and other cervids annually.

Since **2002**, Ontario has tested more than **14,000** wild deer and elk



And over **3,100** farmed deer and elk for the disease

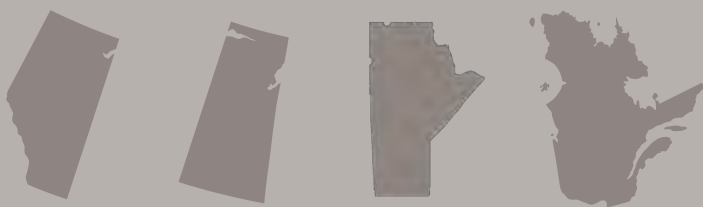


CWD has not been detected



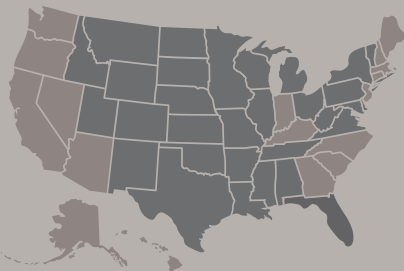
LOCATION

CWD has been found in 4 Canadian provinces:



Alberta Saskatchewan Manitoba Quebec

Also in 31 US states



LEGAL

CANNOT

Cannot bring cervids from other provinces/states into Ontario, except:

- Packaged and deboned meat
- Finished taxidermy mounts
- Tanned hides and skins
- Cleaned skull plate and antlers with no tissue attached



Use products that contain bodily fluids from any cervids for any purpose, including hunting.

MUST

Hold a permit to transport live, captive cervids into, through or between points within the province.



CONTACT

If you see a sick deer, report it to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-866-673-4781, the Natural Resources Information and Support Centre 1-800-667-1940, or email cwd@ontario.ca



More information and details regarding CWD regulations at ontario.ca/cwd

Signs

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a progressive disease meaning that an infected animal may appear normal for several years before signs develop.

Animals infected with CWD may exhibit:

- severe loss of body weight and body condition
- abnormal behaviour, such as indifference to human activity
- tremors, stumbling, lack of coordination or paralysis
- excessive drinking and urination
- excessive salivation/drooling
- drooping head/ears
- Note:
 - infected cervids may not show symptoms for several years
 - some of these individual symptoms may be seen in other diseases

If you see these signs in a wild cervid, note the location of the animal, and if possible, take photographs, and report it to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-866-673-4781, the MNRF's Natural Resources Information and Support Centre at 1-800-667-1940, or by email at cwd@ontario.ca.

Chronic wasting disease and human health

There is currently no definitive scientific evidence to suggest that chronic wasting disease is transmissible to humans, and there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in humans.

As a precaution, public health officials including Health Canada and the World Health Organization recommend taking proper precautions when handling cervid carcasses and avoiding exposure to, and consumption of, CWD-infected animals.

Recent preliminary results of research using macaque monkeys (a species closely related to humans) showed that the animals developed CWD over time when fed muscle meat from CWD-infected deer that appeared healthy.

Handling wildlife carcasses

Although CWD has not been detected in wildlife in Ontario, as part of normal good practices when handling and processing Ontario deer, elk, and moose, it is suggested that hunters:

- wear latex or rubber gloves and eye protection when field dressing carcasses
- minimize the handling of brain, eyes, and spinal tissue as this is where the highest concentration of CWD prions, if present would be found
- minimize the handling of bones of the skull and spinal cord
- don't consume the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils or lymph nodes of harvested animals
- decontaminate your tools by removing organic material and then soaking tools for at least 5 minutes in a 40 per cent household bleach solution
- if you are hunting within a CWD surveillance zone, consider saving the head and submitting it for CWD testing (see Testing section)